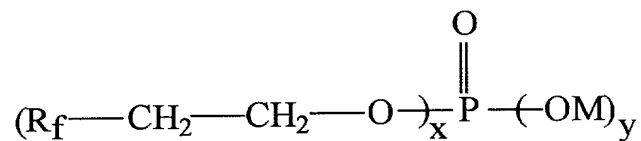WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A functional fluid comprising a phosphate ester basestock and a salt or mixture of salts represented by the formula
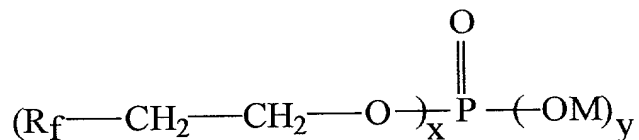
$$(R_f-CH_2-CH_2-O)_x^{} \overset{O}{\underset{\|}{P}} (-OM)_y$$

where R_f is $F(CF_2CF_2)_z$, $x = 1$ or 2, $y = 1$ or 2 provided that the sum of x and y is 3, and $z = 1$ to about 7.

2. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the salt or mixture of salts comprises about 0.01 to about 0.5 wt% of the basestock.

3. The fluid of claim 2 wherein M is an alkali metal.

4. The fluid of claim 3 wherein M is potassium.

5. The method of inhibiting the erosion tendency of a phosphate ester based fluid comprising incorporating in the fluid from 0.01 to about 0.5 wt% of a compound or mixture of compounds represented by the formula

$$(R_f-CH_2-CH_2-O)_x^{} \overset{O}{\underset{\|}{P}} (-OM)_y$$

where R_f is $F(CF_2CF_2)_z$, $x = 1$ or 2, $y = 1$ or 2 provided that the sum of x and y is 3, and $z = 1$ to about 7.

6. The method of claim 5 wherein M is an alkali metal.